2. For providing cheap cloth to the poor the following steps have been taken:—

(i) The powerloom sector caters to the requirements of the poor by producing cloth at affordable prices.

(ii) The controlled/janata cloth scheme and the sulabh and susman scheme are in operation to provide cheap NTC and handloom cloth to the poor.

(iii) Government encourages production of low-priced fabrics for which concessional rates of duties are prescribed.

3. The following steps have been taken to safeguard the interest of cotton growers:—

(i) Government have been fixing remunerative minimum support prices for various varieties of raw cotton that cover costs of inputs besides providing reasonable returns to cotton growers. These rates currently range between Rs. 485|- per quintal to Rs. 1,010|- per quintal for different varieties.

(ii) Exports of raw cotton and cotton yarn are being permitted as far as possible.

(iii) Public and cooperative sector institutions have increased their purchases of raw cotton. During the year October, 1989 to July 1990, the Cotton Corporation of India procured 12.32 lakh bales of raw cotton as against 5.72 lakh bales during the cotton year 1988-89.

*108. [*Transferred to 28th August,* 1990]

Fall in ground water level in Madhya Pradesh

*109. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ground water level is gradually going down in some parts of Madhya Pradesh and also throughout the country due to less rainfall and over-exploitation of ground water;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have conducted any survey in this regard and suggested measures for quick recharging of the ground water reserve;

(c) whether Government propose to provide special Central assistance to State Governments for ground water recharging investigations; and

(d) if so, how much assistance has been given to Madhya Pradesh during 1989-90 and 1990-91 so far for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Declines in ground water levels have been recorded in different localised pockets in the country, including Madhya Pradesh. Declines may be due to deficinet rainfall or high levels of ground water extractions of annually repleaishable resource or both.

(b) Recharge feasibility of ground water in some selected problematic parts of the country has been studied by the Central Ground Water Board with the assistance of International Agencies.

(c) and (d) The matter is under examination.

Proposal to monitor issuing of debentures by companies

*110. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article captioned "Caught in a eross-fire" which appeared in the weekly Sunday Magazine of June 10—16, 1990, issue;

(b) whether Government propose to monitor through the financial institutions the issue of debentures by companies and utilisation of funds collected therefrom the healthy development of the financial institutions;